

WASHINGTON POST

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Counterspy: An 'Anti-Democratic System'

What your December 28 editorial on Richard Welch failed to deal with is that we are reflecting on a systemic, not a personalistic problem. This systemic problem involves U.S. Government-directed and CIA-executed plans to subvert or overthrow certain foreign regimes which challenge "our" system. The clearest example of this was the subversion and overthrow of the democratically-based socialist government of Salvador Allende. In the process, not only was Allende assassinated and that government eliminated, but it resulted in the murder, imprisonment and exodus of tens of thousands of Chileans. So, we are not talking about some "abuses" in the policies of the CIA; we are talking about the systematic destruction of certain governments by certain U.S. leaders who see those governments as a threat to our capitalistic system and/or geopolitical hegemony. So, let's at least be honest about the nature of the problem and not discuss it as though it were a matter of morality involving some innocent individuals.

The Post editorial speaks of Richard Welch as an ordinary "American citizen serving his government and accused of no crime." Much to the contrary, the CIA's Welches are serving a system and their crimes are of the most serious nature imaginable—the overthrow of a government. Furthermore, these crimes are carried out in such a way that no individual CIA agent will ever be found guilty, even though they engineered the crime.

Most Americans oppose our government

functioning in such a manner. . . once they discover what is going on. And the only way the American people learn about such clandestine counter-insurgency is precisely through exposes like those of Counterspy by the Fifth Estate, or those by a Philip Agee, or those by a John Marks. The Post having taken on the Watergate scandal—before it became such—must surely understand this process as well as anyone. The Post editorial, however, wants to leave such CIA investigations and revelations to congressional due process, forgetting that the present congressional hearings would never have occurred without individuals and groups like the Fifth Estate first revealing the truth.

The Post mourns the death of Richard Welch; so does the staff of the Fifth Estate. But does The Post equally mourn the massacre and torture of thousands of Chileans which was caused by a system that uses the CIA as its shock troops? And more importantly, does The Post mourn those human tragedies in terms of critiquing that system?

If the American people are going to survive as a free society, it will only be through fighting this kind of an anti-democratic system within our midst. We are at war with such a system; a war between two conflicting visions of our society. We can only save this society by exposing such a system. That's what Counterspy is doing.

PHILIP E. WHEATON

Advisory Board, Counterspy.

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